



## In this issue

**Dan Bolden  
Class graduates  
—page 5**



*FYI* is a publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Public Information and Communications Office, Editor Gail Madziar.

*“Expecting Excellence Every Day”*

## A news bulletin for employees of the Michigan Department of Corrections

Jan. 23, 2003

Volume 14 Issue 2



*RUO Matthew Morgan, Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility, has been selected as 2003 Corrections Officer of the Year*

## 2003 Corrections Officer of the year selected

RUO Matthew Morgan, Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility, has been selected by the State Standards Committee of the Michigan Correctional Officers' Training Council as the 2003 Michigan Officer of the Year.

RUO Morgan was one of five finalists chosen for the honor from candidates nominated from each institution including SAI and from each region of the Field Operations Administration. The other four finalists included: Chad Cunningham, Boyer Road Correctional Facility; Carol Eisman, Camp Cusino; Timothy McMillion, Camp Lehman and Gavin Piepkow, Southern Michigan Correctional Facility.

Candidates are judged on the basis of their work ethic, MDOC policy compliance, communications skills and professionalism. Each must provide a positive role model and sound judgment in emergency situations.

*continued on page 2*

## 2003 Corrections Officer of the Year from page 1

January 23, 2003



*From left: Matthew Morgan, Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility; Timothy McMillion, Camp Lehman; Gavin Piepkow, Southern Michigan Correctional Facility. Carol Eisman, Camp Cusino; Chad Cunningham, Boyer Road Correctional Facility*

The finalists are selected by a committee of former officers of the year, an MCO representative, a custody supervisor and a training representative. Following are some excerpts from the five finalists' application forms.

Officer of the Year Matthew Morgan has been commended for taking ideas and turning them into action plans. He assisted the administration at the camp in developing a safer way to unlock prisoners during mass movement in an effort to prevent attacks. RUO Morgan has received a DOC Valor Award and has often aided prisoners and offered assistance in the community.

Gavin Piepkow, Southern Michigan Correctional Facility, has been described by his superiors as exemplifying the concepts of professionalism and teamwork. He was instrumental in establishing the "Work Fit" program for DOC employees in the Jackson area. RUO Piepkow helped control and end a hostage situation involving a nurse at Duane L. Waters Hospital and prevented a second situation when a prisoner attempted to pull a female CO into his room. Through RUO Piepkow's physical intervention, staff was not seriously injured in either incident.

Chad Cunningham, Boyer Road Correctional Facility, is a respected seven-year DOC veteran. Officer Cunningham was vital in developing a system of code phrases designed to conceal the Alert Response Vehicles movement from the prisoner population. He holds current department qualifications on all weapons, making it very convenient for his supervisors to place him into any position at a moment's notice, including prisoner transportation.

Carol Eisman, Camp Cusino, has been called an excellent role model for everyone. RUO Eisman is a highly organized individual. She works with the facility's Diversity Committee and has been selected as Captain for the 2003 Torch Run. She demonstrates a positive work ethic and uses sound judgment in her decision making.

Timothy McMillion, Camp Lehman, goes above and beyond his normal duties and responsibilities on a regular basis. He is a seasoned professional who maintains an optimistic outlook when faced with difficulties. RUO McMillion has improved and implemented counseling programs for the prisoners and assisted in the update and rewrite of the prisoner guide book. Over 1000 prisoners have completed his "Anger Management" program.

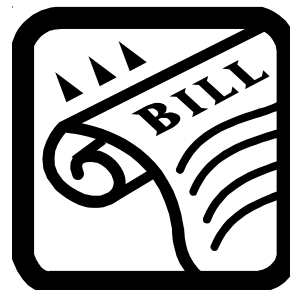
"These five finalists are exemplary members of a profession that requires commitment, courage and strength," said DOC Director William S. Overton. "Our fine corrections officers are not praised enough for their hard work. Congratulations RUO Morgan and thank you for your outstanding efforts."

## House bills reduce prison time

Several bills affecting mandatory minimum drug sentences were passed in lame duck session and signed into law on December 25, 2002 by former Governor Engler. The bills take effect March 1, 2003.

Public Acts 665, 666 and 670 of 2002:

- Eliminate the mandatory minimum sentences for certain controlled substance violations,
- Revise the amount of drugs involved in those violations,
- Eliminate the sentence of lifetime probation and provide that those currently serving lifetime probation may petition the sentencing court to be discharged from further supervision after the service of five years,
- Change the mandatory consecutive sentencing for drug offenses to permissive consecutive sentencing,
- Allow those persons currently serving mandatory drug sentences, including mandatory consecutive sentences, to be eligible for parole consideration in accordance with outlined sentencing changes,
- Increase the number of prisoners allowed to be housed at the Robert Scott Correctional Facility and the Western Wayne Correctional Facility.



Basically, the changes from PA 665 and PA 666 eliminate mandatory minimums and will allow judges to consider individual factors in each case such as prior offenses or use of a weapon. "The proposal puts into place what many judges are practicing now, but provides uniform standards rather than the widely divergent approaches now used," said Richard McKeon, DOC Executive Assistant.

Under Public Acts 665 and 666, sentencing is amended for a person convicted of manufacturing, creating, delivering or possessing with intent to manufacture, create or deliver for each of the violations as follows:

- 1000 grams or more punishable by imprisonment for life or any term of years or a fine of not more than \$1 million, or both
- 450 grams or more, but less than 1000 grams, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 30 years or a fine of not more than \$500,000, or both
- 50 grams or more, but less than 450 grams, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 20 years or a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both
- Less than 50 grams punishable by imprisonment for not more than 20 years or a fine of not more than \$25,000, or both
- 25 grams or more but less than 50 grams punishable by imprisonment for not more than four years, or a fine of not more than \$25,000, or both. This provision would not apply if the sentence were imposed for a conviction for a new offense committed while the individual was on probation or parole.

*continued on page 4*

## House bills reduce prison time *continued from page 3*

Sentencing guidelines have been revised to give judges more discretion to increase penalties for more serious drug offenses.

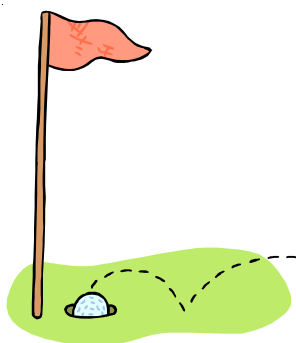
Public Act 670 only affects parole eligibility. It does not change the minimum sentence ordered by the Court. Prisoners affected by this amendment will continue to have their minimum release dates calculated as set forth in PD 03.01.100 "Good Time Credits" and PD 03.01.101 "Disciplinary Credits/Drug Law Credits," as applicable, based on the minimum sentence imposed by the Court. However, they also will have a parole eligibility date calculated based on the criteria set forth above.

Depending on the specific facts of each case, it is possible for a prisoner to be eligible for parole for a drug offense prior to the prisoner serving his/her minimum sentence. In addition, the parole eligibility date for a drug offense may be affected by other sentences for which the prisoner is serving.

The changes also replace lifetime probation with a maximum five-year probation. Beginning March 1, agents will be able to recommend to the judge that a probationer be discharged if he or she has served five years. Currently 6,864 people are sentenced to lifetime probation and nearly half, 3,281, have been under supervision for more than five years and will be potentially eligible for early release.

According to one study, the vast majority of drug sentences involve conviction by plea agreement and mandatory minimums are already not imposed in a significant proportion of the cases. Eliminating the mandatory minimum brings existing statutes more into line with actual practice.

There may be up to 554 current prisoners that will be reviewed for potential eligibility by March 1, 2003. However, accurate projections of the number of likely candidates for early release are unknown at this point due to factors involving multiple prison sentences. It is also premature to estimate how many of the eligible prisoners will actually be released on parole by the Parole Board.



## It's never too early to think about golf

Golfers mark your calendars. The Michigan Corrections Association (MCA) is hosting a four-person golf scramble on Sept. 4, 2003 at Copper Ridge Golf Course in Davison, Michigan. For more information, contact Michael W. Curley or Amy L. Hahn at Standish Maximum Correctional Facility (989) 846-7000.



# Dan Bolden Corrections Officer Training Class graduates

January 23, 2003



Retired DD Dan Bolden

Corrections Officers in the Deputy Director Dan Bolden Training Class attended graduation ceremonies January 17 before a standing room only crowd at the Hill Vocational Center in Lansing. The 179 recruits are members of the first DOC corrections officer class to graduate in 2003. They are scheduled to work at facilities across the state.



Retired Deputy Director Bolden encouraged the new officers to follow the procedures learned in training, always adhere to policy and to cultivate a fulfilling home life with their family and friends.

Dan L. Bolden began his career with the Michigan Department of Corrections on July 1, 1973, as a counselor at the Michigan Training Unit. He was promoted to western region training supervisor, warden's administrative assistant, assistant deputy warden and deputy warden. He became warden of the Kinross Correctional Facility in 1982 and moved to deputy director of Correctional Facilities Administration in 1984 where he served until his retirement in June 2002.



DD Pat Caruso (on right) was on hand to congratulate the new officers.



Michigan Department of Corrections

## Clean Sweep for Saginaw



*From left: Don Spaulding FSD, Warden Blaine Lafler, Mike Christian FSD.*

Saginaw Correctional Facility's (SRF) dedication to sanitation is paying off. Not only has the foodservice department of the facility earned an overall average score of 100% since opening in 1993, they have also recently received top honors from the correctional food industry for the second year running.

In 2001, Saginaw took first place with Correctional Food Service Magazine's Diamond Award for Food Safety. This year Saginaw came close to sweeping the awards by taking first place in the Foodservice Operation and Foodservice Operator categories and

second place in Food Safety. These accomplishments brought Saginaw top honors in Orlando earlier this year where they received the trophy for the "2002 Overall Correctional Foodservice Award".

SRF's Food Service Director (FSD), Mike Christian, attributes the accomplishments to a dedicated staff and crew and the support of Administration and Maintenance.

## Pugsley officers save a life

On Thanksgiving Day during the noon meal, a prisoner approached Officer Charles Knipe, Pugsley Correctional Facility (MPF) and seemed to be having trouble speaking. Realizing that the prisoner was unable to breathe, CO Knipe summoned the assistance of CO James Finch. While Finch called for further assistance, Knipe performed the Heimlich maneuver on the prisoner. After a few tries, the food was dislodged and the prisoner was able to breathe again.

"It was very rewarding to see Knipe in action," said Assistant Deputy Warden Suzanne Carr who witnessed the incident. "His professionalism and quick actions were tremendous."

"Officers Knipe's and Finch's actions just show the level of professionalism that we have here at MPF," said Warden Ray Wolfe. "The Department's efforts to ensure that all staff throughout the state is trained to the best of their ability has once again paid off."



*From left: Officer Charles Knipe and Officer James Finch*



## Holiday giving

January 23, 2003



*From left: John Sherman-Jones, Volunteer Services Coordinator; Family Independence Agency; Peggy Carberry, Case Manager; Barbara Bouchard, Warden (LMF); Denise Gerth, Case Manager.*

The selfless efforts of DOC employees throughout the year generate aid to many charities and communities across the state. The holiday season is no exception. Listed here are just a few of the activities accomplished by corrections staff in 2002.

Staff at Alger Maximum Correctional Facility and Corrections Camp Cusino in conjunction with the Family Independence Agency worked to brighten the Christmas of needy local families. A gift tree was set up in the lobby and decorated with tags containing information about 33 local children. Response was overwhelming and each child received two gifts per tag. A food drive gathered hundreds of pounds of non-perishable goods for the food bank and two raffles raised \$884. Twenty staff members each

donated five dozen homemade cookies for the 100 Dozen Cookie Raffle and staff donated Christmas decorations for a Holiday Raffle.



*Kent County Probation office collected money and toys for Toys for Tots. This is an annual tradition in the office. From left: Leslie Beak, Erma McMillan, Paula Gruber, John Luther, Stephanie Scognamiglio, Wendy Maloney, Delta Chipman and Dave Rusnell.*

A group of prisoners at Camp Sauble wanted to build hobby craft cabin banks to be donated to a children's charity. Robert Szymke, Assistant Deputy Warden, came up with an inventive way to allow the inmates to provide a similar service that would not cost money for materials. "We had old prisoner blues that were too worn or torn to repair, so we began the Blues Bears project," said Szymke.

Teddy Bear "hides" were cut out of scrap blues material and sewn together by the camp cobbler. The



*Blues bears and cabin banks provided Christmas gifts for Scottville tots.*

prisoners stuffed them and individualized them by sewing clothes or facial features on them. A total of ten bears were completed at no cost to the prisoners or the Department of Corrections. "This has turned out to be a good way to recycle blues instead of cutting them into rags, or throwing them out," said ADW Szymke. The bears and cabins were donated to the Five Cap Toys for Tots program in Scottville.

*continued on page 8*

## Holiday giving *continued from page 7*



*IBC staff from left; Sally Wood, school instructor; Cliff Randall, case manager; Paula White, business office secretary and Arleen Edwards, assistant business manager.*

The Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility's (IBC) Relay for Life team members held a Christmas Bazaar coordinated by IBC's Procurement Technician Cyndi Marshall. It included raffles, sales of Christmas decorations, candies, cookies and a dinner. Staff who helped to make this holiday event a success included Ed Hosey, Sally Wood, Marcie Kauffman, Diane Foote, Denise Edgar, Deb Bridinger, Arleen Edwards, Heidi LaPointe, Paula White, Dick Sena and Lynn Laird. \$1,195 was raised for the IBC charity and helped staff get

into the spirit of the holidays.

The Ionia Maximum Facility's (ICF) employee's club provided 12 complete ham dinners for less fortunate families.

Bob Kolossa, horticulture teacher at Lakeland Correctional Facility, delivered hundreds of poinsettias to local nursing homes, shelter houses and churches providing some welcomed Christmas spirit. Kolossa also delivered a plant to each office at the facility. The plants



*Bob Kolossa*

are raised throughout the year from cuttings and the previous year's plants as part of the horticulture program.

### Special Activities

Directors at the Parr Highway Facility received a heartfelt thank you from the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System for providing beautiful holiday plants to the hospitalized veterans.



*From left ICF staff: Nancy Klinesmith, Tom Tefft, and Patrick Nielsen.*

## A picture is worth a thousand words

Don't forget to include photos when submitting your stories to *fyi*. This is an employee newsletter and we would like to showcase our DOC staff as much as possible. If you have questions about photos, please contact the Public Information Office at (517) 373-6391.

